

*Stated Meeting, Dec. 3d, 1869.*

Present, fifteen members.

DR. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Letters of acknowledgment and envoy, and donations for the Library, were received from the Swedish Bureau of Statistics, Prussian Academy, Physical Society at Geneva, M. M. de Mortillet and de Reffye, Captain Toynbee, the Linnean Society, Franklin Institute, Editors of "Nature," Mr. Isaac Lea, Mr. Dubois, Prof. Haldeman, and Mr. Worthen, of Illinois.

Mr. Du Bois exhibited to the Society, some specimens of silver coin which have just been struck at the Mint, in illustration of the plan suggested in a pamphlet which lies on the table. There are three pieces of the same devices, of 50, 25, and 10 cents. There are also two pieces of 50 cents, of various devices, with a view to afford a choice, in case the plan should be adopted and legalized. The head of Liberty on one of these, wearing a cap, is copied from the statue at the Capitol.

The dies were designed and executed by the present engraver of the Mint, Mr. William Barber; with the aid of the Hill Engraving Machine.

The main idea which lies at the root of the proposed plan, is, that *gold* is, properly speaking, the only measure of market values; while *silver* should be used only as a subsidiary or fractional currency. It may, or it may not, be of full weight, corresponding to the average comparison with gold. If it is so, it is sure to be snatched away, exported, or buried, whenever a suspension of specie payment occurs. If it be of reduced weight, it will still circulate and perform its functions, although the gold be missing. But at such reduced weight, it should be legally limited, as to amount of issue; and there should also be a close limit of legal tender. With these two safeguards, it would be equally current, whether gold were at a premium, or at par, as compared with bank paper.

The measure of weight last concluded upon, in striking these specimens, is 154 grains for the half dollar; the lesser pieces in proportion. This is four-fifths of the weight of the present silver coins. It also agrees (very closely) with ten grammes of French metrology. Further, it would be 220 *new grains*, if the proposed plan of decimalizing the avoirdupois pound be accepted. And once more, it allows the Mint to buy silver for this coinage, at any line of premium on gold under 30 per cent. as compared with bank notes.

It would therefore, if legally adopted, be current immediately. Further details will be found in the pamphlet referred to.

Mr. Du Bois also exhibited a *medal* just struck at the Mint, to celebrate the union of the two oceans by Railway. On the obverse is the head of President Grant, from an original design. It was deemed proper to indicate under whose administration this great work was completed. On the reverse is a scene representing a train of cars passing from ocean to ocean,

through mountainous ranges ; with a legend from the Scripture, "Every mountain shall be made low."

The medal was struck by order of the Director of the Mint, Gov. Pollock, and the dies were made by Mr. Barber.

The opportunity is also taken to show a head of Rittenhouse, in wax, executed by the same artist, from the bust in the Society's hall. It is intended to form the obverse of a medal, by reduction on the engraving machine already spoken of.

Prof. Hayden explained the character of the MSS. Journal of his recent explorations in the Rocky Mountains.

The Annual Report of the Treasurer was read.

The Annual Statement of the Trustees of the Building Fund was read, and the Society was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, Dec. 17th, 1869.*

Present, fourteen members.

DR. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read from Mr. H. A. Homes, of Albany, State Librarian, from the Natural History Society at Newcastle upon Tyne, and from Dr. F. V. Hayden, withdrawing his paper, on account of its ensuing publication by the Department of the Interior at Washington.

Donations for the Library were received from the London Geological Society, the Boston N. H. Society, Mr. Homes of the N. Y. State Library, the College of Pharmacy, Mr. David Paul Brown, Mr. Hector Orr, Gen. A. A. Humphreys and the Department of the Interior.

A letter was read from the Chairman of the Publication Committee, Mr. James, relative to the publication of Dr. Dewey's Report on Carices. On motion of Mr. Fraley, the papers were recommitted to the original Committee, Mr. Durand, Mr. James and Dr. Ruschenberger.

A communication was made by Mr. P. W. Sheaffer of the following records of well borings in the Wilksbarre coal region :